

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Assembly Members Swanson, Lieu, and Mendoza
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Krekorian, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Price, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)

January 6, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 7—Relative to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 7, as amended, Swanson. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This measure would designate that January 19, 2009, be observed as the official memorial of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth, commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Civil Rights Movement in changing public policy in California and in the United States of America.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Monday, January 19, 2009, marks the 23rd National
2 Celebration of the National Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King,
3 Jr. and his fight for civil and human rights; and

4 WHEREAS, On Thursday, January 15, 2009, Dr. Martin Luther
5 King, Jr. would have been 80 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, On April 10, 1970, California became the first
7 state to pass legislation making Dr. King's birthday a school
8 holiday and, subsequently, a statewide holiday; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan)
10 submitted the first legislation for a national King Holiday, which
11 was signed into law by President Ronald Wilson Reagan, on
12 November 2, 1983; and

13 WHEREAS, January 20, 1986, marked the first observance of
14 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
16 change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in
17 the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating
18 racial segregation in the South known as the "Black Codes," in
19 the passage of laws aimed at ending economic and social
20 segregation in the North, and in the passage of the Civil Rights
21 Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other
22 antidiscrimination, full citizen participation laws; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement
24 specifically changed public policy from closed access to open
25 access in education, including higher education, employment and
26 labor laws, transportation policy, election laws, and other aspects
27 of public policy, particularly those relating to human rights; and

28 WHEREAS, These public policy changes at the national level
29 influenced many changes in California public policy manifest in
30 the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Rumford Fair Housing Act, in
31 open enrollment and access to higher education, specifically with
32 respect to the California State University and the University of
33 California, and in employment and labor laws, transportation
34 policy, election laws, and other aspects of public policy; and

35 WHEREAS, The unfinished business of Dr. King and the Civil
36 Rights Movement was and is the plight of the poor, the fight against
37 war and for worldwide peace, and the struggle for a fair, equitable,
38 and sensible economic system; and

39 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement noted
40 that a majority of Americans lived below the poverty line, and that

1 the huge income gaps between rich and poor, called for “changes
2 in the structure of our society”; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. King, in the last months of his life, began
4 organizing a Poor People’s Campaign to, among other things,
5 assemble “a multiracial army of the poor that would descend on
6 Washington—engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the
7 Capitol, if need be—until Congress enacted a poor people’s bill
8 of rights”; and

9 WHEREAS, All of the aforementioned concerns and more
10 continue to be the quest of civil and human rights organizations
11 in the great State of California, across America, and throughout
12 the world; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought to change public
14 policy from the “self-inflicted wound of segregation to the
15 pluralistic diverse democracy” we continue to construct today; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights
17 Movement serve as a model for principled leadership and forward
18 thinking, bipartisan public policy; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That Monday, January 19, 2009, be observed
21 as the official memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birth and
22 his work in the Civil Rights Movement; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That this day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the
24 Civil Rights Movement be commemorated for their help in
25 changing public policy from segregation to integration, for the
26 betterment of this, the great State of California and these United
27 States of America; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
29 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.
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32 **CORRECTIONS:**

33 **Heading—Coauthors—Line 4.**
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